

## Across Lower Manhattan

A Lower Manhattan Expressway, an elevated route costing \$83,000,000 and connecting the Holland Tunnel and Miller Highway on the West Side with the Manhattan and Williamsburg Bridges on the East Side, has been talked about for years. Now at last it begins to look like action, a tribute in good part to the pertinacity of Commissioner Robert Moses, the City Construction Coordinator. The map has been submitted to the Board of Estimate, which referred it to the Planning Commission. The schedule calls for acquiring right-of-way in three stages beginning in early 1960 and continuing into 1961.

The need for this crosstown artery has been recognized for at least a decade, but the recent enthusiasm and organized support for rebuilding and improving the downtown area have made the need more urgent and the great advantages even more rewarding. Commissioner Moses speaks of this aspect in the brochure: "Not to be overlooked in examining the benefits of the Expressway is the tremendous stimulus it will provide to the program of the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association. This group of distinguished downtown leaders, headed by David Rockefeller, is assiduously tackling a giant task—the rehabilitation of Lower Manhattan. These citizens have undertaken a project of stunning scope. They deserve nothing less than the complete cooperation of our elected and appointed city officials."

The Lower Manhattan Expressway, by offering a through route to traffic moving between New Jersey (or our own West Side Highway) and Brooklyn or on farther into Long Island, will free local streets of a staggering burden.

A Lower Manhattan Expressway is properly given priority over the Mid-Manhattan Expressway, but we hope the Thirtieth Street project will also come to life now. It would offer tremendous benefits. The longer we wait the costlier these expressways become. The Thirtieth Street area remains in a state of uncertainty, and large undertakings incidental to the highway construction are delayed or perhaps could be lost forever.